



THE LITTLE DUCKS AND DUCKLINGS

Illustrated by Mrs. J. P. Noyes

No. 100

THALASSIDROMA MARINA, *Less.*

White-faced Storm-Petrel.

Procellaria marina, Lath. Ind. Orn., vol. ii. p. 826.—Vieill. 2nde Edit. du Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., tom. xxv. p. 419.

—Gal. des Ois., tom. ii. pl. 292.

Frigate Petrel, Lath. Gen. Syn., vol. vi. p. 410.—Ib. Gen. Hist., vol. x. p. 189.

Thalassidroma marina, Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 612.

THIS fine species of *Thalassidroma* was originally described by Latham, in the second volume of his "Index Ornithologicus," from one of Sir Joseph Banks's drawings. It enjoys a wide range over the southern ocean, the specimen figured by Vieillot in his "Galérie des Oiseaux" having been procured at New Zealand, while numerous individuals in my own collection were procured in Australia. Mr. Gilbert discovered it breeding on some of the small islands lying off Cape Leewin in December, where he procured numbers of its eggs, as well as many examples of the adult birds; he also met with it on a small island about three miles south of East Wallaby Island in January, by which time the young birds were almost ready to leave their holes. The specimens procured on this island are peculiarly interesting, as showing how completely the true feathers are assumed before the downy covering is thrown off.

The egg of this species is pure white, one inch and a half long by one inch and an eighth broad: whether one or two are laid at a time is uncertain, but I believe only one.

Forehead, face, line over the eye and all the under surface pure white; crown and nape, a broad patch beneath the eye and the ear-coverts slate-colour; sides of the chest, back of the neck and upper part of the back dark grey, gradually passing into the dark brown of the back and wings; upper tail-coverts light grey; primaries and tail black; irides dark reddish brown; legs and feet black; webs yellow.

The plumage of the immature birds being carefully represented in the drawing, a minute description is unnecessary.

The figures represent a male, a female, and a young bird of the natural size.